

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1~~
A fold-away transport platform attached to a boat transom for carrying sizeable items
comprising:

a) a pair of tubular side supports pivotally attached to the boat, each side support
having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said tubular side supports
 having a down-turned radial extremity, and said second end of said tubular side supports
 having an upturned radial extremity, such that the first end extends downwardly into the
 boat and the second end provides a barrier on the distal end for maintaining a secure
 position when transporting sizeable items on said platform,

b) a plurality of tubular cross members positioned between the side supports for
structural strength and rigidity of the transport platform.

c) a pair of stern pivoting hinge brackets, each hinge bracket pivotally attached to
an internal surface of said boat stern and to said first end of each side support, with the
transport platform extending outwardly from said boat stern, and

d) a plurality of tubular diagonal braces having pivotal detachment means for
fastening each brace to an external surface of said boat transom on a lower end of said
brace, and rotatable means for attaching each brace at an upper end to a cross member
such that the platform may be supported diagonally, and when the lower end is
disengaged, the fold-away transport platform may be rotated into the boat, thus making
use of said stern pivoting hinge brackets, into a position for storage and transportation.

3. (currently amended) ~~The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1~~
A fold-away transport platform attached to a boat transom for carrying sizeable items
comprising:

a) a pair of tubular side supports pivotally attached to the boat, each side support having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said tubular side supports straight and said second end of said tubular side supports have an upturned radial extremity, wherein the first end is positioned adjacent to the boat stern rail, and the second end radial extremity provides a barrier on its distal end for maintaining a secure position when transporting sizeable items on said platform,

b) a plurality of tubular cross members positioned between the side supports for structural strength and rigidity of the transport platform,

c) a pair of stern pivoting hinge brackets, each hinge bracket pivotally attached to an internal surface of said boat stern and to said first end of each side support, with the transport platform extending outwardly from said boat stern, and

d) a plurality of tubular diagonal braces having pivotal detachment means for fastening each brace to an external surface of said boat transom on a lower end of said brace, and rotatable means for attaching each brace at an upper end to a cross member such that the platform may be supported diagonally, and when the lower end is disengaged, the fold-away transport platform may be rotated into the boat, thus making use of said stern pivoting hinge brackets, into a position for storage and transportation.

4. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 wherein said tubular side supports and tubular cross members comprise a metal composition with a weld holding the supports and cross members together at an intersection therebetween.

5. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 wherein said tubular side supports and tubular cross members are formed from stainless steel.

6. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 wherein said tubular side supports and tubular cross members are formed from aluminum.

7. (original) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 4 wherein said tubular side supports and tubular cross members are configured from the group consisting of a round shape, a square shape, an polygonal shape and a rectangular shape.

8. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 + 2 wherein said stern pivoting hinge brackets each comprise a flat mounting plate having provisions for being installing onto the boat transom, and parallel leafs each having means for receiving said first end of said tubular side supports.

9. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 + 3 ~~wherein said~~ further comprising stern pivoting hinge brackets each ~~comprise~~ having a pair of parallel leafs attached to an upper portion of said boat stern rail, each pair of brackets having means for receiving said first end of said tubular side supports.

10. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 + 2 wherein said tubular diagonal braces pivotal detachment means further comprising a flat mounting plate with provisions for installing onto the boat transom, and parallel leafs each having a clevis pin bridged between said leafs, wherein said clevis pin capable of being removed.

11. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 + 2 wherein each tubular diagonal braces rotatable means for attaching each brace at an upper end to a cross member further comprising a pair of parallel leafs attached to one of the cross members, with a clevis pin bridged between said leafs and said upper end of the diagonal braces, said braces having a mating plate with a hole therein jointly engaged by said clevis pin.

12. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 further comprising an external cover stretched on top of said platform and selected from the group consisting of netting, catamaran tarp and canvas.

13. (original) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 12 wherein at least one of said cross members is a drop-down cross member to permit the external cover stretched on top of said platform to yield under weight without touching the cross member.

14. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 further comprising a telescoping platform that is adjustable in length of overhang, and having the side supports formed in two sections, with one slipping inside the other.

15. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 further comprising cross bracing between the tubular side supports and tubular cross members for additional reinforcing and structural strength.

16. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 further comprising said transport platform angled upward from the boat mean horizontal centerline from 5 to 10 degrees for assuring that the platform will be capable of maintaining its transported items during rough water.

17. (currently amended) The boat fold-away transport platform as recited in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of gussets attached between the side supports and the cross members to reinforce and strengthen the platform.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A fold-away transport platform attached to a stern portion of boat for carrying sizeable items comprising side supports, having a first end and a

second end wherein said first end of said side supports having a down-turned radial extremity, and said second end of said tubular side supports having an upturned radial extremity, such that the first end extends downwardly into the boat and the second end provides a barrier on the distal end, a plurality of cross members, disposed between said side supports forming a platform, pivoting hinge brackets attached to said side supports and to said boat stern, and a plurality of diagonal braces fastened to said boat and said cross member such that the brace may be detached and the platform pivoted into the boat for transportation and storage.